

Wilmington, Daniel

DRAWER

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Artists-4




Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

Daniel Huntington

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



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Lincoln Lore

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Recent Acquisitions

Editor's Note: The Foundation's staff is constantly alert to acquire additional historical material to augment the collection in the library-museum. With the passing of the years (since Lincoln's death) original Lincoln items are getting quite scarce and command exceptionally high prices; yet, in spite of these difficulties, worthwhile exhibit pieces, rare books, pamphlets and manuscript materials are occasionally placed on the market. Such items are avidly sought by a dozen institutions and perhaps as many private collectors. Fortunately, the Foundation's library-museum has been able to secure a great many of the rarities that occasionally make their appearance. This issue of *Lincoln Lore* is devoted to a discussion of some of our recent acquisitions.

Miniature Portrait of Abraham Lincoln

One of the major items of Lincolniana, acquired recently by the Foundation, is a miniature portrait of President Abraham Lincoln painted by Daniel Huntington in 1864. It is assumed that this miniature was painted from life. A statement made by J. Staal of the firm of Norman of London, 573 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y., and dated January 29, 1943, follows: "This miniature of Abraham Lincoln was painted from life in the year 1864 by Daniel Huntington, N. A." The miniature is encased in a metal frame, and on the reverse side is the inscription "President Lincoln — painted by Daniel Huntington 1864." A study of the portrait reveals that it bears very little resemblance to any of Lincoln's photographs.

The provenance of the item is fairly well defined. The miniature was formerly the property of Lieutenant George M. Parsons, 55th Pennsylvania regiment, said to have been a personal friend of President Lincoln. Upon the death of Lieutenant Parsons the miniature portrait was inherited by his daughter, Miss Ella Parsons of Philadelphia. Prior to the death of Miss Parsons, the miniature became the property of Mr. and Mrs. A. Clarke Walling of Brookline, Massachusetts. For over fifteen years the miniature was exhibited by the John Hay library of Brown University at Providence, Rhode Island. This year the Foundation purchased the miniature from Mr. and Mrs. Walling.

The miniature measures 2 x 2½ inches. The portrait painted on ivory, depicts Lincoln turned to the sitter's left, wearing a business suit. Lincoln's hair is painted dark with some gray. The artist used subdued tints, with a greenish-gray background that is characteristic of his other work.

The history of miniature painting is interesting. The very early artists painted their small scale portraits on vellum until, in the 17th century, a method of painting on thin leaves of ivory affixed to cardboard with gum was introduced. The United States is best represented in this field by portrait painters J. S. Copley, Gilbert Stuart and C. W. Peale. E. G. Malbone (1777-1807), however, was the first great American miniaturist. *The Encyclopedia Americana* and *The Encyclopedia Britannica* mention some twenty leading miniature painters of the United States. The name of Daniel Huntington does not appear in these lists.

The name of Daniel Huntington (1816-1906) does appear in the *Dictionary of American Biography* (Hibben to Larkin) on pages 412 to 413; however, none of his Lincoln portraits are mentioned in the D A B sketch. During the Lincoln administration, Huntington was an artist of great eminence. Except for the years 1869-77,

he was President of the National Academy from 1862 to 1891. He undoubtedly was in a position to request President Lincoln to sit for a portrait.

The introduction of photography greatly lessened the demand for small portraits. However, it was not long before the superior artistic merit of the miniature began to awaken in discriminating persons a new interest in this type of painting, and in the latter part of the 19th Century an important revival of the art took place. Miniature painting still flourishes, although popular demand has relegated it to a comparatively minor place.

In Emanuel Hertz's two-volume biography, "Abraham Lincoln A New Portrait," Horace Liverwright, Inc., 1931, three of Daniel Huntington's Lincoln portraits are used as illustrations. The three original portraits are exhibited in the Prince Albert Museum of Bombay, India, The Union League Club of New York City, and the Chamber of Commerce of the State of New York.

In the files of our museum-library there is a small folder of material on Daniel Huntington. This folder contains a photograph of a Lincoln painting by Huntington. The 1932 correspondence which accompanies the photograph indicates that the portrait of Lincoln, along with one of Mrs. Lincoln, was for sale at \$8,500.

Staffordshire Figurine "A. Lincoln"

During the American Civil War there was a great deal of interest in England in the outcome of the conflict. In most cases the sentiment was pro-Union. This interest was manifested by the Staffordshire Pottery Works in the production of two figurines; John Brown and Abraham Lincoln. However, these were not the first Americans to be so depicted as Benjamin Franklin and George Washington were produced for the European as well as the American market.

The public's intense sympathy with the North was also shown by the many figures made by the Stafford-

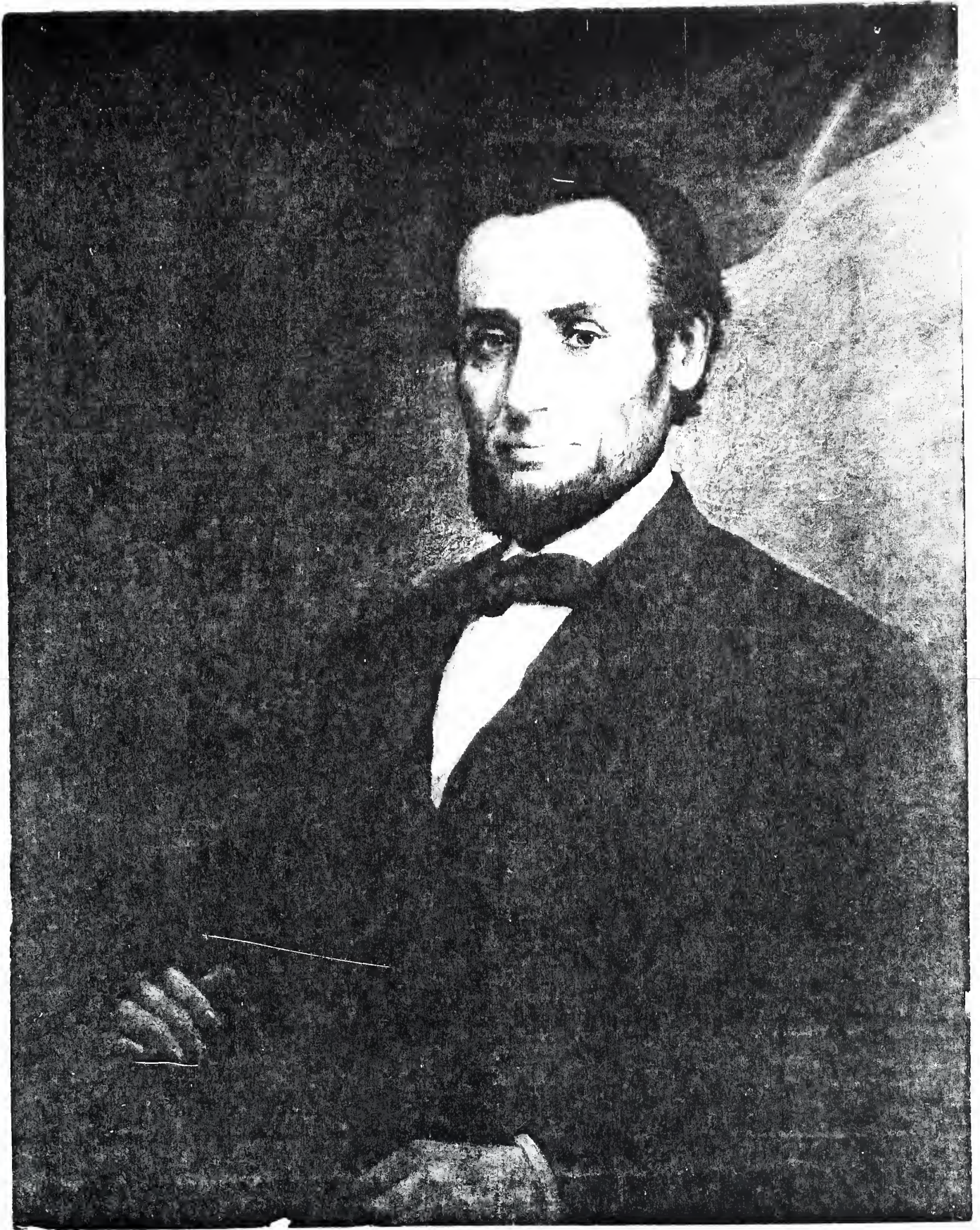


From the Lincoln National Life Foundation
A miniature portrait of Abraham Lincoln painted by Daniel Huntington in 1864.

PHOTOCOPY
(original in safe)



PHOTOCOPY
(original in safe)



PHOTOCOPY
(original in safe)

Abraham Lincoln

by

Daniel Huntington.

Maebeth Gallery

15 East 57th St,

N. Y. C.





Mary Todd Lincoln

by

Daniel Huntington

Macbeth's Gallery,

15 East 57th St.,

N.Y.C.

Peter V. Levy & Son

15 East 57th St.

New York

1900

The Huntington Portraits.

There is no mystery about the Macbeth Gallery Lincoln portraits—for there are also two of them, one being of Mrs. Lincoln. Concerning them a gallery spokesman had this to say:

"The Huntington portraits of Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln are recent additions to the few on record as having been painted from life. While at least two posthumous portraits of Lincoln by Huntington are known to exist, one of them being the large canvas owned by the Union League Club and commissioned by the club in 1865, it had not been known until the recent discovery of these pictures that Huntington was one of the group who painted Lincoln and his wife from actual sittings.

"The information as to this appears on the back of each canvas in Huntington's own printed characters. On Lincoln's is simply the record 'From Sitting.' On the reverse of the portrait of Mary Todd are the words 'Painted from Sitting. The same period as President Lincoln's, which was painted first. Daniel Huntington.'

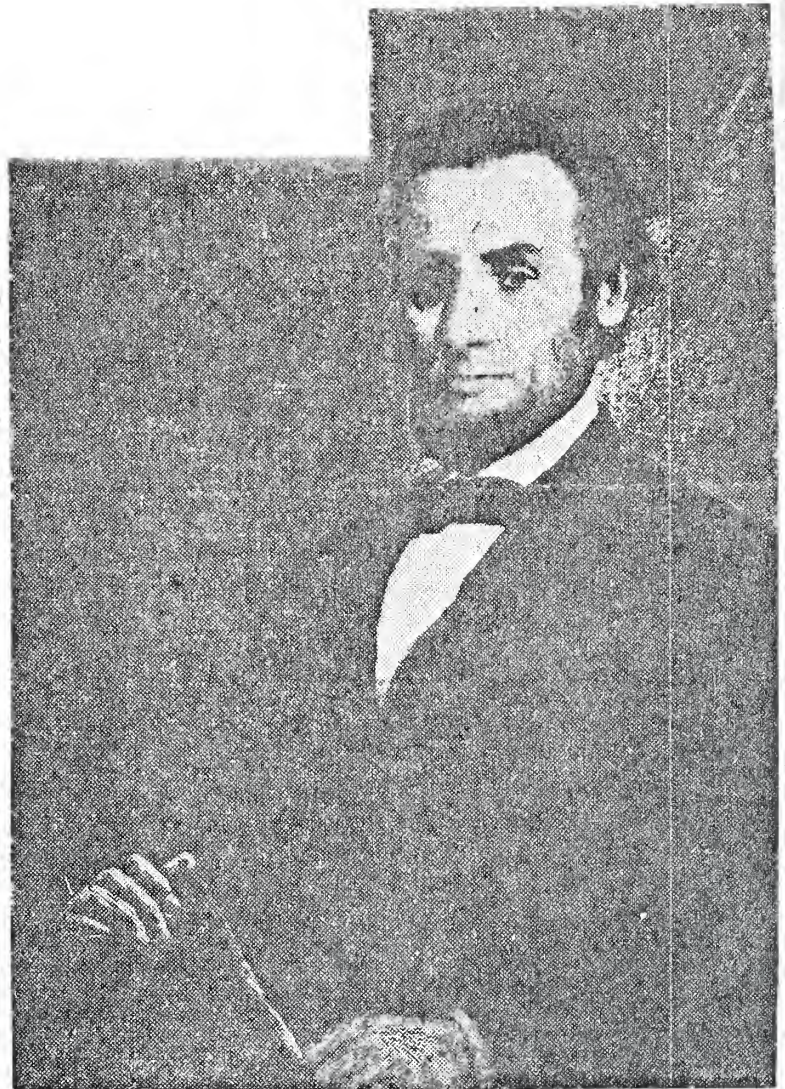
"The pictures are believed to have been painted in 1865, when Huntington was serving his first term as president of the National Academy and shortly before he was elected to

the post of vice-president of the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

"It is to be assumed that Huntington liked these himself well enough to keep them by him, for they do not appear on a list of portraits (carefully kept by him) which he painted to order and listed as he turned them over to the sitters.

"In 1884 the portraits were sold to a family named De Witt, as evidenced by a letter which the Macbeth Gallery has on record from the artist's secretary to Mr. De Witt. The paintings have remained in the De Witt family since that time."

This portrait of Lincoln, by the way, has already been sold to a Western collector, though it and the companion canvas will remain on view at the gallery for the next two weeks.



From the portrait painted from life by Daniel Huntington on view at the Macbeth Galleries. *New York Sun* 2-45-32

miniature of President Lincoln
painted by Daniel Huntington

1864

The Lincoln miniature, ^{portrait} presently owned
by A. Clarke Walling, 85 Strathmore
Road, Brookline, Massachusetts and offered
for sale for \$3,500, shows every evidence
of being an authentic ~~item~~, The inscription
on the back of the miniature is as follows:
"President Lincoln - painted by Daniel
Huntington, 1864"

It is assumed that this miniature was
painted from life which of course
enhances its value. An attached
statement by Norman of London
indicates that the miniature was painted

E. H. Malbone (1777-1807), however, was
the first great American miniaturist. The
Encyclopaedia Britannica and The
Encyclopedia Americana mention
some twenty leading miniature
painters ^{of the United States}. The name of Daniel Huntington
does not appear.

Daniel Huntington's name does appear
in the Dictionary of American Biography
(Hibben to Larkin), pages 412-413.
(See ^{attached} Xerox copy of biographical sketch.)
Huntington (1816-1906) was a well known
painter, however, none of his Lincoln
portraits are mentioned in the DAB
sketch. During the Lincoln administration
Huntington was an artist of great
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from life. See also letter from Norman
of London to A. Clarke Walling dated
January 29, 1943. The provenance
of the stem is well defined in the
~~statement~~ by Norman of London.

~~Technically~~

A miniature is a painting on a
very small scale. The word is
derived from the Latin minium
meaning red lead. The early artists
painted on vellum until thin leaves of
ivory fixed on cardboard with gum
was introduced in the 17th century.
The United States is best represented
in this field by the portrait painters,
J. S. Copley, Gilbert Stuart and C. W. Peale.



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discriminating persons, and an
important revival of the art took
place in the latter part of the 19th century.
Miniature painting still flourishes, although
the popular demand has relegated it to a
comparatively minor place. (See attached

half-tone print of a Lincoln miniature
by John Henry Brown)

In Emanuel Hertig's two
volume biography "Abraham Lincoln
A New Portrait" Harace Livermunt,
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Huntington's ^{Lincoln} portraits are used as
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Prince Albert Museum, Bombay,
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In the files of the museum-library
we have a small folder on Daniel

Huntington. This folder contains
a photograph of a Lincoln painting
by Huntington. (~~see photographs attached~~)
The ¹⁹³² correspondence which accompanied the
photograph indicates that the portrait
of Lincoln along with one of Mrs
Lincoln was for sale at \$8,500.

It is of interest to point out that
we have a letter from M. A. Clarke
Walling dated May 22, 1949
offering to sell the Lincoln miniature
for \$3,500.

I would like very much to have
the Lincoln miniature to add
to our Foundation exhibit. I feel sure

~~that it is ^{an} authentic Daniel Huntington~~
~~portrait~~ and that the ^{suggested} purchase
price is not too far out of line
with present market values

R. Gerald W. Murty

Dec. 31, 1963.



FRANKFURT AM MAIN

BERLIN · BONN · MÜNCHEN

Lincoln National
Life Foundaton

Fort Wayne

Indiana

U S A

Frankfurt am Main, den 18, März 1966
Bck/kn

Sehr geehrte Herrn,

auf Veranlassung der Blumhaven Library und Gallery lieferten Sie uns freundlicherweise Ende Januar das beiliegende Negativ einer Aufnahme *WV*

einer Miniatur von Abraham Lincoln
gemalt von Daniel C. Huntington

zugehen, das wir sofort als Vorlage für unsere Reproduktion verwendet haben. Einen ersten Andruck legen wir bei.

Den Druckschriften über Ihr Institut und den interessanten Erläuterungen über diese Lincoln-Miniatur hatten Sie außerdem noch einen Farbfotoabzug beigelegt. Wir nehmen an, daß wir diesen Druck (Kodacolor Print) behalten dürfen, andernfalls geben Sie uns bitte Nachricht. Dasselbe gilt für verschiedene große Papierdrucke von Bildern Lincolns, die Sie wohl kaum zurückwünschen..

Für unsere Bilderklärung waren uns Ihre Schriften eine gute Unterstützung. Nehmen Sie bitte für Ihre so rasche Hilfe unseren verbindlichen Dank entgegen.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

VERLAG MORITZ DIESTERWEG
i.A.

L. Becker
(Frau L. Becker)



Gentlemen:

At the request of the Blumhaven Library and Gallery, at the end of January you kindly sent us the enclosed negative of a picture of a miniature of Abraham Lincoln painted by D. C. Huntington which we immediately used as a model for our reproduction. We have enclosed a first copy.

You enclosed a pamphlet concerning your museum and an interesting description of the Lincoln miniature as well as a color print. We assume that we may keep this print (Kodacolor Print); if not, please let us know. The same applies to the various large paper pictures of Lincoln which we suspect you do not want returned.

Your enclosures were a great help to us in our pictorial explanation. Please accept our sincere thanks for your so speedy help.

Cordially,

Mrs. L. Becker

A PARSEE'S PORTRAIT OF LINCOLN

The Duplicate of the Union League Club's Picture That Was Sent to India.

One of the best portraits of Lincoln is that owned by the Union League Club and painted some thirty years ago by Daniel Huntington. Connected with it is a bit of history that has never been printed before, and is known to few, if any, of the Union Leaguers themselves.

Some thirty years and more ago there lived in Bombay a wealthy Parsee merchant named Cama. He was an exporter of Indian stuffs, and his trade was largely with the United States. His agent here was H. W. Hubbell. He was a man of wide education and was a great admirer of the United States. He followed the fortunes of the civil war with intense interest, and when Lincoln became President Mr. Cama began to read everything he could get about him. The more he studied, the more he admired his character, and he said that Lincoln was the greatest statesman the world had ever seen. When Lincoln was assassinated he mourned his death as keenly as any citizen of the United States. But, as much as he had studied and admired Lincoln's character, Mr. Cama had no idea of what he looked like. He had never seen a picture of Lincoln, and he therefore wrote to Mr. Hubbell commissioning him to procure at any cost the finest portrait of Lincoln to be obtained in this country. He specified that the portrait should be in oil, that it might be as enduring as possible.

That was early in 1866. While making inquiries in reference to the matter, Mr. Hubbell learned that Mr. Huntington was painting a half-length portrait of Lincoln. When the work was completed, Mr. Hubbard inspected it. Upon being asked when Mr. Lincoln had sat for the picture, Mr. Huntington told Mr. Hubbell that the portrait had been painted after Lincoln was assassinated. The artist said that before beginning his work he had made a collection and study of all engravings and photographs of Lincoln he could find. Then he had had several talks with Seward and Stanton about the poses of the dead President. After learning as much as he could of his subject, he painted the picture.

Mr. Hubbell gave Mr. Huntington the order, and the artist duplicated the picture which now hangs in the Union League Club. When it was finished it was shipped to Bombay and delivered in good condition. On April 9, 1866, Mr. Huntington received through Mr. Hubbell Mr. Cama's order on his New York banker for \$500 in gold. As gold was then at a premium of something more than 200, Mr. Huntington received a little more than \$1,200 for the portrait. A short time after that Mr. Cama sent a letter to Mr. Huntington, telling him how much he was pleased with the portrait, adding:

"I shall hand this portrait down, at my death, to my eldest son, as the rarest inheritance I can leave him. If he studies the face and the character he, too, may become great."

Thus it happens that somewhere in India today is a Huntington portrait of Lincoln.

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Daniel

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